

European diplomats arrested by Afghans

QUETTA, Pakistan (AFP) — Afghan security forces have arrested three European diplomats. Afghan Consul General Haji Abdul Khalil said here Saturday, denying earlier reports that the trio had been kidnapped. Mr. Khalil said the diplomats were taken into custody by security personnel in the Afghan border town of Spin Boldak after they illegally crossed into southern Kandahar province from Pakistan's Baluchistan province Friday. The three were identified as Jack Dodds of Britain, Gert Fleining of the Netherlands and Stephan Elbert of Germany, all drug liaison officers. They were found some 20 kilometres inside Afghanistan taking photographs, the Afghan diplomat told reporters. Mr. Khalil said investigations were continuing to try to determine whether the diplomats were on an espionage mission inside Afghanistan. Denying an earlier report from diplomatic and official Pakistani sources here Friday that the three were kidnapped by armed Afghan tribesmen, he said he had contacted the commissioner of the Spin Boldak region, who said the three were all safe and in custody. "They were not abducted, they were arrested," he said.

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6 Yemenis killed in election violence

SANA (AFP) — Six people, including two election candidates, were shot and killed in the town of Zohra near the western port of Hodeida during clashes between two leading political parties, police said Saturday. They were the first election-related murders since the start of the campaign on April 18. The killings occurred Thursday during an armed clash between members of the two main parties entering lists for Tuesday's legislative election, the first balloting for a unified Yemeni parliament since North and South Yemen became one country in May 1990.

Copt killed in Upper Egypt

ASSIUT (AFP) — Muslim fundamentalists stabbed to death a teenage Christian Coptic student and seriously wounded another in the Upper Egyptian city of Assiut, an extremist stronghold, police said. They said the incident occurred when three men lay in wait for students who were leaving their technical school and attacked two with knives, killing one and wounding the other before fleeing. The assailants were clad in the long white shirtdresses usually worn by fundamentalists, said police.

Ex-general shot in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Gunmen shot and wounded retired Algerian General Kamel Abdul Rahim Saturday as he left Rouiba, 20 kilometres east of Algiers, the official news agency APS said. Mr. Abdul Rahim, until he retired in 1988, was commander of naval forces. APS said between four and six gunmen attacked the general, hitting him twice in the body. The general, aged 58, is one of the most senior officers to be attacked in 14 months of violence blamed on Muslim fundamentalists. He was taken to hospital.

Masoud rocketed during exercise

JABAL-UL SARAJ, Afghanistan (AFP) — Afghan Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud and several senior military staff narrowly escaped death Saturday when two long-range missiles fired by anti-government forces exploded just metres away. Mr. Masoud was visiting a military base at Jabal-ul Saraj, about 65 kilometres north of Kabul, when the rockets landed near his operations headquarters. The minister was personally supervising an operation in which defence ministry officials claimed 3,000 fighters from Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami faction had defected to Mr. Masoud's forces.

Tunisia's Communist Party changes name

TUNIS (R) — The 56-year-old Communist Party of Tunisia has changed its name to the Movement of Renovation. The change was announced after an extraordinary meeting which ended Friday night. Mohammad Harmel, outgoing secretary general, was unanimously reelected. The change received the blessing of Tunisia's ruling party the Rassemblement Constitutionnel Democrate, represented at the closing session by its Secretary General Chedli Neffai.

Egypt, S. Arabia plan joint exercises

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and Saudi Arabia will stage regular joint military manoeuvres and are considering joint defence manufacturing projects. Egyptian defence sources said Saturday. Both countries are actively considering how to revive a short-lived military alliance broken off in 1979 when Egypt made peace with Israel. A decision on holding joint manoeuvres every six months was made during last week's visit to Saudi Arabia by Egyptian Defence Minister Lieutenant-General Mohammad Hussein Al Tantawi, the sources said. Gen. Tantawi also visited a Saudi defence factory. Earlier this year, senior Saudi defence officials visited Egypt's defence factories, which produce a variety of advanced armaments including jet fighters, missiles, tanks and munitions.

Arab teams head for bilaterals amid mixed reactions at home

Combined agency dispatches

JORDANIAN, Syrian and Lebanese peace negotiators left for Washington Saturday to attend the delayed ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks scheduled to resume Tuesday.

The 14-member Jordanian team is led by Abdul Salam Majali. Dr. Majali flew to London Friday to brief His Majesty King Hussein, who is vacationing in England.

Palestinian negotiators, who form a joint delegation with Jordan, are expected to leave Monday, amid deepening Palestinian division over continuing the peace process unless Israel makes concessions.

At least two of the 14 Palestinian delegates have refused to attend the Washington talks.

The Syrian delegation left Damascus for Washington Saturday afternoon via Paris. The Lebanese foreign ministry said some low-ranking members of Lebanon's team also left Saturday, and delegation head Suhaib Shammas was scheduled to leave Sunday.

The four Arab parties involved in the peace talks with Israel agreed Wednesday to resume negotiations after a four-month

delay. The 16-month-old talks broke down after Israel expelled 400 Islamic fundamentalists from the occupied territories in December.

Jordanian delegates said they would continue discussions with Israel on a joint draft agenda charting future peace negotiations.

The accord is the most visible sign of progress in the otherwise stumbling 18-month-old peace process.

"We will continue with our agenda," said a Jordanian negotiator before flying to Washington. "We hope some progress would be made to enable us to start substantial talks."

The joint draft agenda foresees an eventual peace treaty between Jordan and Israel as part of a comprehensive Arab settlement.

Jordan is seeking to rework the document to plug loopholes which it feared could be used by Israel to set precedents and weaken Palestinian-Israeli talks — especially on the final status of Jerusalem, officials say.

Syria's official Tishrin newspaper meanwhile warned of the collapse of the peace process and a loss of U.S. credibility if Israel's "policy of obstruction" is allowed to continue.

Tishrin said the Arab decision to resume the talks was not taken easily and required "intense contacts and consultations with the U.S. administration."

The Arabs "expect real progress from the ninth session (of negotiations) as well as an effective American role which is in harmony with the commitments it gave," Tishrin added.

The international community must reject the Israeli position or see the ninth round become "a maze" that will lead to "the collapse of the entire peace process and U.S. credibility," it warned.

The Arabs plan to "immediately raise the basic issues, starting with a withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory," referred to in U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, it said.

If Israel continues to "defy U.N. Security Council resolutions," the Arabs will have no choice but to "ask the U.S. administration to implement its commitments and guarantees," it said.

In Washington, members of the State Department's "peace team" met Friday with representatives of the Israeli delegation to the Middle East peace talks.

Team leader Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, did not participate in the consultations, but other team members met with the Israeli representatives twice during the day.

"We don't have any firm schedule for meetings with the other delegations at this time," the spokesman said, "but we hope to confer with all of the parties before the talks resume on April 27."

In occupied Jerusalem, Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini angrily told his many critics Saturday there was no better option for the Palestinians than a return to the peace talks.

Mr. Husseini defended his backing of the negotiations in a shouting match with the wives of expelled Muslim fundamentalists and later before a sceptical crowd of Jerusalem merchants.

"Some people have asked me to withdraw from the talks," Mr.

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Expellees await return home, page 2

Christopher: Meaningful Palestinian self-government possible, page 5

PLO lists 'assurances' package

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has made public seven-point package of assurances which it said brought the Palestinians back to peace talks with Israel but accused the Jewish state of trying to implement them.

It said the assurances were "positive achievements" and appealed to Washington and Moscow as co-sponsors of the peace process to intervene strongly to ensure that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin fulfilled them.

"At this crucial moment, respect for what was agreed upon by the (peace) conference's co-sponsors requires that they take a strong stand towards the Rabin government's attempts to avoid the issues ... or escape their practical implementation," a statement carried by the Palestinian news agency WAFA said.

It said one of the assurances the Palestinians received was the speeding up of the return of nearly 400 Palestinians whose expulsion by Israel to South Lebanon in December caused suspension of the peace talks.

However, Mr. Rabin stuck on Thursday to an earlier proposal to allow 101 of the expellees to return immediately and the rest in stages by the end of the year and he was not obliged to make further gestures.

The PLO is under criticism from some Palestinians who say it agreed to return to the ninth round of talks in Washington next Tuesday without having achieved any of the concessions it had demanded from Israel.

The statement listed for the first time the assurances which the PLO said the Palestinians won. It called them "achievements which cannot be minimised or ignored" and said they were the

(Continued on page 5)

Sudan accuses Egypt of coup plot

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudanese leader Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir accused Egypt Saturday of plotting with Sudanese opposition groups to overthrow his government.

The military leader told a news conference a number of Egyptian-trained saboteurs sent to blow up installations in Khartoum and elsewhere had been detained but did not specify how many.

Gen. Bashir said Egypt provided Sudanese plotters with 12 helicopters to fly them to Sudan to blow up installations and seize power in Khartoum.

He said Egypt trained the plotters and provided them with 500 revolvers with silencers. Sudanese army uniforms, night sight equipment and ammunition.

"While Egypt had been accusing Sudan of exporting terrorism to other countries including

Egypt without providing any proof, we now have proof of the Egyptian government's training of people to commit terrorist acts in Sudan," Gen. Bashir said.

As outlined by the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA), the invaders, equipped and trained by Egypt, would be drawn from banned political parties and southern rebels. Some troops from northern Sudan would help.

The invading troops will be transported by a foreign warship, and then Egyptian planes will be used to position them, SUNA said, quoting a press statement by a senior security source.

In Cairo, military spokesman Taymour Al Zohairy said he could not comment but would ask his superiors. At the Foreign Ministry, spokesman Nagy Al Ghafri said: "I have absolutely no idea what you're talking about."

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Yeltsin issues last appeal to voters

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Boris Yeltsin, gambling his future on a nationwide referendum, made a final appeal to Russians Saturday to put aside economic woes and give him their support for a "breakthrough to the future."

In a speech released ahead of its broadcast less than an hour before the polls open in the Russian Far East, he said he wanted the referendum result to "break through the mighty dam which has been constructed by opponents of Russian reforms."

"My ability to carry on with the course of reforms will depend entirely on how you vote on April 25. Your choice will decide what the president can and cannot do, and what the congress can and cannot do," Mr. Yeltsin said.

He said the most important questions on the ballot were numbers one and four, which polls

predict he will probably win. They ask voters whether they have confidence in the president and whether they want early elections to parliament.

Mr. Yeltsin, accused by his opponents of planning a coup if he wins, said he would "follow the principle of constitutionality, relying on the will of the people," whichever way the voting went.

But he made clear he wanted to push ahead with a wholesale shakeup of Russia's political system, particularly the all-powerful Congress of People's Deputies.

"Your votes for the president will be seen as your backing for a new constitution," he said.

"We must ensure that no single state organ, no single leader, whatever his high rank, can ever again concentrate all powers in his hands. Otherwise the ghost of dictatorship will continue to hover over Russia," he said.

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As the dust settles, expect more chaos, page 4

Yeltsin's last appeal to voters

King hopes for breakthrough in talks, but warns of abyss

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has said Friday he

thought the Middle East peace talks were close to a breakthrough, but warned that if the Arab-Israeli conflict was not settled swiftly the region would "slide towards an abyss."

Interviewed in London on the prospects for next week's rescheduled talks between Israeli and Arab leaders, King Hussein told Sky News: "I believe we are close to a breakthrough and I really hope I will be justified."

He said that people on both sides of the divide now felt it was up to them to resolve their problems rather than relying on outside agencies.

"There are too many pressing problems in every aspect of life and too many challenges and too much suffering, too much anger that grows and grows, and de-

spair."

"So if it is not resolved now I think that we will be sliding towards an abyss," King Hussein said.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), King Hussein said that Jerusalem was "far too important to hundreds of millions of people throughout the world" to be considered "the domain of one or the other of the parties concerned."

The Holy City should become "the essence of peace" in the region, he said.

The Palestinian delegation has shown "great courage" in agreeing to participate in the talks at a time of "intolerable" conditions in the occupied territories, which remain sealed off by the Israeli authorities following violence there, the King said.

Following is a text of the King's

interview with the BBC:

Question: Your Majesty, here we are in another stage of the Middle East peace process. Hopes have been raised before and hopes have been dashed. Are your hopes high again this time?

Answer: They are high and I hope they will be high throughout this phase which I hope will finally see us achieve a breakthrough which we have sought for so many years.

Q: On what basis have you got for saying that?

A: There is no other alternative and there is no other option for all concerned on either side of the divide and for the world beyond. So I feel there is a realisation by all concerned that this is it; we must really move to secure the

(Continued on page 4)

Jordan calls for free movement of labour, capital in Arab World

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Saturday called for the free movement of Arab capital and labour within the Arab World and increased inter-Arab trade to advance Arab development.

The call came in a speech delivered by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein at the 26th session of the Council of Arab Universities held at the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid.

Higher Education is an area which needs close attention in the Arab World since Arab university graduates still lag behind their counterparts from foreign universities, the Regent said.

"The teaching method, moreover, is in dire need of development that renders a university student more capable of taking initiatives and being creative, and more self-reliant too," he said.

The operation by elite National Security Guards (NSG) ended a tense 12-hour hijack drama which began Saturday afternoon when the lone hijacker seized control of the Boeing 737 on a flight from New Delhi to Srinagar in Kashmir.

"There was no loss of life and no damage to the plane," said Indian Airlines spokesman A.K. Sivanandan, adding that all 135 passengers and six crew members were safe.

He said it was not immediately known whether the hijacker, a 30-year-old man who claimed to be a member of the Muslim separatist movement in Kashmir, was hurt in the commando raid, which took place at 12:55 a.m. Sunday (1925 GMT Saturday).

Airline officials said there had been just one hijacker, retracting a statement that two men had been involved in commandeering the plane.

The plane was flown to Amritsar, in Punjab state, after Pakistani authorities refused permission for the aircraft to land in Lahore.

The hijacker, who identified himself as Sayeed Jalaluddin, had demanded that the plane be refuelled and flown to the Afghan capital of Kabul.

He described himself as a guerrilla for Muslim fundamentalist group fighting for independence for the northern province of Kashmir, but the group disclaimed responsibility.

The commandos said they went in as food was being delivered to the plane and seized the hijacker.

The gunman, armed with at least one pistol and claiming to have a grenade, had said that all on board would die if elite "Black Cat" commandos of the NSG, who surrounded the plane at Amritsar Airport, tried to take it.

"I know I am not going to survive if the NSG storm the plane and I will not let anyone live," one security source quoted him as saying.

Before that he had threatened to kill passengers one by one unless his demand was met and gave negotiators just 25 minutes to agree, but the deadline passed without incident.

Israel sealed off the occupied territories at the end of March after a month in which Palestinians killed 15 Jews.

Demonstrators carried placards stating: "Al Quds (Jerusalem) is an Arabic city" and "we refuse Jerusalem closure."

But speakers also argued over

Expellees in Jordan await return home

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestinian decision last week to return to the Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks has shed more attention on the promises and gestures that both U.S. and Israeli governments say they will make towards the Palestinians now that they have agreed to return to the negotiating table.

The four-month recess in the talks was caused by the crisis that Israel sparked when it expelled over 400 Palestinians across its northern borders into South Lebanon last December.

Israel now says that expulsion is not a policy but merely a "security measure," but the nearly 1,600 Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories since 1967 know otherwise.

They are lawyers, teachers, journalists, mayors, priests, clergymen, laymen and community leaders. Banished by Israel, often with no official explanation, most of the 1,600 now live in Jordan. Many live in transit-like conditions while others have set up offices to lobby for their return.

A good number of them are now high-ranking officials and members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Executive Committee, the Palestine Central Council (PCC) and the Palestine National Council (PNC).

Sheikh Abdul Hamid Sayeh, the first officially expelled Palestinian from the occupied territories since 1967, is now speaker of the PNC.

"Off-the-record" discussions between Israelis and Palestinians in the last two months have led to an "unofficial" Israeli agreement to repatriate some 30 individuals as an initial gesture towards the Palestinians, Amman and Tunis-based Palestinian officials say.

The Israelis have indicated that they would consider repatriating some 30 expellees in addition to a phased return of those in Marj Al Zuhour.

Jamil Hilal, head of the PLO information office in Tunis, told the Jordan Times this

week.

While the "unofficial" gesture by the Israelis has created anxieties among the 1,600 expellees in Jordan, the concept that Palestinians and Israelis are negotiating their return has given them hope.

"I don't want to get my hopes up too high because it would be such a cruel joke if it turned out to be another false alarm — like this whole peace process," said the exiled mayor of Al Bir, Abdul Jawad Saleh.

Mr. Saleh's wife said: "I read in one of the newspapers that my husband's name is on the list and I have begun making a list of things I want to take with me."

Mr. Saleh was expelled in 1973, but most of his family never left home. His sick mother, whom he says he desperately wants to see, and his four children live in the West Bank.

"I have been denied the right to properly carry out my duties as son and I have not had the pleasure of being there for my grandchildren," he says.

Mr. Saleh is one of some 300 to 400 names that the PLO in Tunis has collected in a priority list for a phased return of those officially expelled since 1967.

"All Palestinians who were either forced to leave since 1967 or those who are not allowed to visit and live in the occupied territories consider themselves exiled," said Suha Eid of the Bir Zeit University liaison office, which also houses the Committee of Palestinian Deportees.

The names of the 1,227 expellees that the committee has documented up to August 1988 as well as some 400 expelled during the intifada were "chosen by the Israelis — that is what makes them special," Miss Eid said.

"Israel chose them because it felt that a leaderless community could be more easily controlled," says Aishah Odeh, a woman activist and expellee.

Those in the PLO list, the older and more vulnerable ex-



Mohammad Milhem



Hanna Nasir



Abdul Hameed Al Sayeh



Bishop Elia Khoury

1979 after having spent 10 years in jail for carrying out military operations against the occupation forces on behalf of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). Her parents' house was blown up after she was sent into exile.

"The Israelis did not realise that new leaders are born every day," Ms. Odeh told the Jordan Times. Having met with Israeli peace activists in Europe, Ms. Odeh believes that Palestinians and Israelis can live side-by-side and looks forward to returning home.

She has been notified by colleagues in the DFLP (Abed Rabbo wing) that her name is on the list. "I don't want to hope too much, but I can't stop hoping either," she said.

The Israelis have made a long list of exceptions to those that they will allow to return in the initial phases. The PLO list includes those who will return in the initial phase, PCC member Saleh Ra'afat said. "We have forwarded a list and we are hoping this list will be accepted," he said.

No intifada-related exiles and no-one with a record of military background or activities will be among those Israel allows to return to the occupied territories in the initial phase.

Those in the PLO list, the older and more vulnerable ex-

pelees say, should be allowed to return first.

"I think the older people should be the first to be allowed back," says 1974 expellee Hanna Nasir. "I have been told I am on the list but I would rather have older people return before me — or those who have their entire families there," said Dr. Nasir, the exiled president of Bir Zeit University.

Among the exiles several hundred are now in their sixties and seventies; about two dozen died in exile.

Among the older exiles are Anglican leader and PCC member Bishop Elia Khoury who has been in exile since 1971.

"Four of our children are here and five children are in the West Bank," says Um Iyad.

"The Israelis let me come and go so I go there every three months to visit my children there."

Her husband is not on the "list" as far as she knows, but he is unlikely to be on the list.

Mr. Odeh is a mason and not an active member of any political group.

"I think at least half the people on the 'list' should be those who are not community leaders; this returning thing should not be something for the elite alone," insists Dr. Nasir.

While Israel has given individual and sometimes group permits for expelled Palestinians to return, it has never taken it upon itself to allow for

all those expelled to return.

In fact when it did allow for a few Palestinians to return it made attempts to turn them into "collaborators." Nadim Zaru, former mayor of Ramallah who was exiled in 1979, was allowed back in the mid-1980s only to face pressure and coercion from the Israelis.

"They allowed him and a few others to return," his wife, artist Samia Zaru, told the Jordan Times. "They thought that he would become a turncoat. When he didn't they began treating him miserably — letting him sit all day at the police station and asking useless questions."

But Mr. Zaru is an exception to the rule. Over 95 per cent of the exiles have never got the chance to visit their homes in the West Bank or Gaza.

For many this meant a separation from their families and in many cases their families joined them in exile.

The next one month will be a time of waiting and expectation. If the United States and Israel come through on their "off-the-record promises" to the Palestinians, some of the expellees are expected to return, possibly within the next six weeks.

It would be the first concrete gesture by both the U.S. and Israel towards the Palestinians — something that the 1,600 expellees in Amman would very much appreciate.

Top Israeli defence aide visits Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — A senior Israeli defence ministry official held talks here with officials on arms treaties, the official MENA news agency reported Friday.

It said the director general of Israel's defence ministry, David Ivry, arrived in Egypt Wednesday, but gave no details on the talks, saying only that they centred on "treaties on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," adding that he left early Friday.

Egypt has repeatedly urged Israel to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Most Arab countries, including Egypt, are signatories of the NPT. But they have made their agreement to a convention on the banning of chemical weapons conditional upon Israel's adherence to the NPT.

Israel has never admitted to having nuclear weapons but has said it would not be the first country to use them in the Middle East.

The visit by Mr. Ivry, a reserve general and head of the Israeli delegation to multilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks on arms control, came a day after a two-day visit to Egypt by Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid.

Mr. Sarid tried to allay Egyptian fears about possible contamination in the southern Israeli desert from the Dimona nuclear plant following press reports.

The Egyptian government is

Sheikh eluded immigration after recent Canada trip

NEW YORK (AP) — Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the Islamic fundamentalist linked to the suspects in the World Trade Centre bombing, eluded immigration officials after a recent trip to Canada, according to a published report.

The New York Times reported in Saturday's editions that it was the third time the sheikh managed to elude immigration authorities despite being on a State Department watch list of "terrorists and undesirables." He was reportedly in Canada in late 1992, months after his permanent residency permit was rescinded.

Had he been caught at the border, immigration authorities could have prevented Sheikh Abdul Rahman from entering the United States.

"If he went to Canada they could have excluded him coming back," Representative Charles Schumer told the Times.

The Times said it was not clear when he travelled to Canada and how when he re-entered the United States. Witnesses told the newspaper they saw the sheikh preaching at both an Islamic school and mosque in Ottawa. Sheikh Abdul Rahman's attorney denied that he went to Canada.

The Justice Department has said that the sheikh's failing health and the lack of evidence linking him to terrorism convinced federal authorities to keep him out of jail despite a pending deportation hearing.

The Egyptian government is

trying the sheikh in absentia on charges of organising and leading an anti-government demonstration. He has been tried and acquitted three times in Egypt, including for the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

City Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman and Sen. Alfonso D'Amato had asked the Justice Department to detain the sheikh, saying he is here illegally and has a strong connection to the World Trade Centre bombing suspects.

But a letter to Ms. Holtzman, released Thursday, gave federal authorities' reasons why the cleric was not taken into custody after a federal immigration judge ordered the sheikh deported.

The expense of handling health care for the blind cleric was cited, as was a lack of information directly trying Sheikh Abdul Rahman to any terrorist activity in the United States.

Two of Sheikh Abdul Rahman's alleged followers have been charged in the Feb. 26 World Trade Centre bombing which killed six and injured more than 1,000. The fundamentalist preacher has not been charged and has publicly denounced the bombing.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, 55, entered the U.S. in July 1990 after obtaining a tourist visa from the U.S. embassy in the Sudan.

The sheikh has continued preaching at mosques in Brooklyn and Jersey City while fighting deportation.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Cleric denounces conviction of Egyptian Muslims

NEW YORK (R) — The spiritual leader of Muslim fundamentalists trying to overthrow the Egyptian government Friday denounced death sentences against seven militants convicted in Cairo of launching violent attacks against tourists and others. The denunciation of the death sentences and jail terms against another 22 came from Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who preaches for the overthrow of the Egyptian government from his self-imposed cage in Jersey City, New Jersey. The militants were convicted Thursday of attacking foreign tourists and conspiring to topple the government in a year-long campaign that has claimed 120 lives. "If the Egyptian regime thinks by issuing these unjust sentences, that they can stop the thunderous machine of our mujahideen... then we are indeed in deep illusion," he said in a statement. Sheikh Abdul Rahman has often rallied against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, claiming that he violates human rights and stays in power only because of police and military support. To the tyrants of Egypt we say: Where are you going to hide? We promise that your destruction time is near."

150 kilos of cocaine seized at Beirut port

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese security Friday seized 150 kilograms of cocaine from Colombia at the port of Beirut following a tip to police, the national ANA news agency said. The cocaine, valued at \$10 million and stashed inside a motor, arrived in Beirut from the Netherlands and Egypt where it transited aboard the freighter Oriental Night.

Policeman killed in clash with Kuwait car gang

KUWAIT (R) — A policeman was killed and two officers were wounded in a clash between Kuwaiti police and an armed gang of car-crazed youths, Al Watan daily reported Saturday. The youths started shooting Thursday when police tried to prevent them from blocking the main road to the Saudi border and turning it into a race track, the newspaper said. Police had to take cover and wait for reinforcements after being showered by machinegun bullets by the gang, the daily reported. A back-up patrol car overturned while passing over a section of the road covered with oil. The youths had spilled the oil earlier as part of a skidding demonstration. The driver was killed instantly, two others were injured. Only two of the estimated 200 car drivers were arrested by other patrol cars, the newspaper said. The newspaper said the gang was in the habit of using the road as a race track one day a week. A Ministry of Interior spokesman said he was checking the report. Many Kuwaitis stole abandoned Iraqi weapons when Iraq's occupying troops were expelled from Kuwait in February 1991. Some have yet to be handed in despite repeated government appeals.

One killed in clash with police in Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Twelve suspected left-wing militants were killed in a recent clash with security forces in the east of the country, Anatolia news agency said Friday. The dead, said to be members of the Dev-Sol organisation (Devrimci Sol — revolutionary left), were killed Sunday near Tunceli in the region of Anatolia, the agency said. The deaths occurred after militants launched a rocket attack on a police station in Akcapinar, near Tunceli. Police caught up with and engaged the militants some kilometres (miles) away, killing 12 of them, the agency said. Dev-Sol, which specialises in urban guerrilla warfare, was severely weakened in March in two security operations in Istanbul, during which eight members died, including the group's number two. Two other militants said to be from the group were also killed overnight Thursday in Istanbul in what were said to be reprisals between rival factions of the group, Anatolia said.

Cyprus to apply U.N. sanctions on Serb firms

NICOSIA (AFP) — Cyprus, a base for hundreds of Serbian off-shore firms, is prepared to apply strictly U.N. sanctions on the rump Yugoslavia due to take effect Monday, the central bank governor said Saturday. "All the assets of Serbian firms and banks will be frozen, except the property of individuals" unless Bosnian Serbs accept the Vance-Owen peace plan for the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afxentios Afxentios told AFP. Three Serb banks, including the Beogradka Banka, and nearly 500 other Serbian off-shore firms are registered in Cyprus, although less than 10 per cent have offices. U.N. Resolution 820 calls for tighter sanctions against Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro — if Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina continue to reject a peace plan proposed by mediators Lord Owen of the European Community and Cyrus Vance of the United Nations. Belgrade is blamed for the war in Bosnia. Mr. Afxentios said the sanctions "will be strictly applied to off-shore banks and companies in Cyprus." But the governor categorically denied foreign news reports that some off-shore Serbian firms in Cyprus were circumventing the initial U.N. embargo imposed last year. Lord Owen Friday proposed creating a U.N.-controlled land corridor linking Serb-held territory in Bosnia to Serbia in a final effort to get Bosnia's Serbs to sign the U.N.-sponsored peace plan.

Canada investigates killing of Somali

MOGADISHU (R) — Three senior Canadian military investigators arrived in Somalia Friday to probe the fatal shooting by their forces of a Somali in the central town of Beletuun last month. A spokesman at the Canadian command, part of a 24,000-strong U.S.-led task force that is helping restore order in Somalia, said the new team would take over the case. "Vice-Admiral Larry Murray, Canadian deputy chief of staff — has ordered a military police investigation into this unfortunate incident," the official said. Task force spokesman Colonel Fred Peck said the Ottawa order was made after top Canadian military commanders reviewed a preliminary report by a joint Canadian and task force team. He declined to reveal the contents of the first report. Col. Peck said officers to be probed were from the airborne regiment based in the United States. He declined to give their names. The senior Canadian officers, whose names or ranks were not divulged, were due to fly to Beletuun Saturday. The Canadian command spokesman said the investigators wanted to find out whether the soldiers were justified in killing the Somalis or whether it was a clear case of homicide.

JORDAN TIMES TEL. 667171

PRAYER TIMES

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Executive Streets

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NHF workshop stresses role of media in rural development

AMMAN (J.T.) — A training workshop for 50 members of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) Quality of Life Project's Technical Committee operating in the southern part of Jordan has called for further coordination among concerned public and private institutions in development work.

At the end of a three-day training session (April 20-22) in Aqaba, participants also affirmed the role of mass media in rein-

forcing self-reliance and efficient organisation among rural communities covered by the NHF project.

During the three-day workshop, trainees received lectures on the project's technical committee's goals and role in promoting health care and establishing income-generating schemes in Jordanian villages.

They were also trained in the design and implementation of village development plans in coop-

eration with members of the local communities.

The Quality of Life Project was launched by Noor Al Hussein Foundation in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health with the goal of introducing a dynamic, innovative development programme that would improve the total quality of life of underprivileged individuals and communities in rural, urban and densely-populated parts of Jordan.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After meetings with government officials and Jordanian businessmen on Thursday, a two-member United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) delegation Saturday toured Jordanian factories to determine their capabilities of producing essential products for Palestinian refugees.

According to an official at the Foreign Ministry's Department for Palestinian Affairs, which organised the visit in an effort to encourage UNRWA to purchase necessities it supplies to the refugees from local Jordanian firms, should UNRWA decide in favour of this offer it would be spending not less than \$70 million annually here.

The UNRWA team, comprising Abdul Ghani Khalil and Ahmad Balqees are concluding their several day visit and will leave Sunday and Tuesday for Vienna to report on their findings and their discussions in Jordan.

Palestinian affairs department official Ihsan Bustami accompanied Mr. Khalil and Mr. Balqees on their visits to Jordanian factories manufacturing blankets, garments, detergents, stationary and pharmaceutical products — all of which are essential items distributed to refugees or used by the agency's centres in Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the West Bank Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Observers commented that the JCP is undergoing a democratisation process. All the meetings and elections were open to the press. More important, for the first time in its 40-year history, the JCP, held free and open elections.

Although the former JSP leadership compiled a suggested list of the new central committee, the door was open for nominations from the floor and 39 were nominated, of which 25 were elected.

When asked why there was a suggested list, Laila Nafaa, member of the JCP's current central committee, said it was seen as necessary because most of the delegates do not know each other.

During the meetings, serious discussions and disagreements arose, which Dr. Zayadin perceived as healthy and part of the democratic process.

"Democracy needs practice. There were many heated discus-

Communists re-elect Zayadin, but amend political programme

By Sawsan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Yacoub Zayadin Saturday was re-elected as the general secretary of the Jordanian Communist Party (JCP), which also introduced major changes to its political programme at the end of its first national legal congress.

The congress was attended by 193 delegates, representing different regions in Jordan and different segments of society.

According to Dr. Zayadin, women constituted 16 per cent, workers 35 per cent and youth 50 per cent of the delegates.

The congress was the first meeting of its kind and provided an excellent opportunity for members of the JCP to meet each other, Dr. Zayadin said.

The three-day congress elected a new central committee and an inspection committee, which reviews the actions and decisions of the central committee.

Dr. Zayadin said approximately 50 per cent of the central committee members are new. In addition, he explained that the congress decided to form an inspection committee, a new phenomenon in the JCP, to ensure the correct practices of the central committee and to strengthen democracy.

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"Democracy needs practice. There were many heated discus-



Jordanian Communist Party (JCP) General Secretary Yacoub Zayadin (centre), flanked by party members Abd Al Ateh (left) and Munir Hamarneh, Saturday addresses the party's first, national legal congress (Photo by Yousef Al Aan)

The JCP took the opportunity to invite those who left the party to return and work to guarantee social development and democracy.

The congress also stressed that education and culture are important elements for the development and progress of society, warning the masses of the dangers inherent in the "imperialist" culture that has affected their morals.

The JCP condemned the regionalism, factionalism and terrorism that is present in the Arab World. It focused on the establishment of a realistic and studied unity among the Arab countries to face such problems.

The congress voiced its support for Cuba and North Korea in their stand against the "imperialist" powers. Furthermore, it called for end to the U.N. imposed embargoes against Iraq and Libya.

A statement was issued, by the congress condemning Russian President Boris Yeltsin for destroying the economic structure of Russia and for supporting the "mafia" and the "Western intelligence agencies."

The delegates for this congress will hold their posts until the next congress, meeting whenever they deem necessary to guarantee proper performance by the leadership.

The JCP also affirmed its support for the workers of Jordan and granting women all their economic, political and social rights.

The congress called for unity among the parties in Jordan to protect the country from external forces, to liberate Palestine and to reduce unemployment and poverty.

When asked about the unity among leftist parties, Dr. Zayadin said it is a premature idea that needs more discussion.

The party needs to develop practical and scientific programmes that suit the current period," Dr. Zayadin maintained.

The congress produced few changes in the documents presented to it.

In the philosophy of the party, the congress decided to change the phrase "to abide by the Marxist-Leninist theory," to "use the Marxist-Leninist theory as a guide for our work."

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Standard to torture?

NO MATTER which way the Israeli high court will decide on the legality of the "moderate physical pressure" that the Israeli general security service, Shin Bet, condones as lawful when interrogating Palestinians, the fact remains that the Jewish state's record on torture is dismal. Even since the beginning of the Palestinian intifada, no less than 2,000 to 3,000 Palestinian detainees or prisoners have been tortured or ill-treated, according to documented evidence obtained by several non-governmental organisations concerned with human rights abuses. Israeli authorities have been lax, to put it mildly, in meeting their government's treaty obligations under both the International Convention Against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The liberal application of moderate physical pressure has also been stretched to legalise the so-called "non-violent psychological pressure," something that clearly runs counter to international jurisprudence against torture and ill-treatment of detainees or prisoners.

The lip-service that Israel pays to various human rights instruments can be best illustrated by the fact that "non-violent psychological pressure" and "moderate physical pressure" have been construed by Shin Bet and other Israeli security agencies to mean that all sorts of physical brutalities which leave no physical trace can be tolerated. According to current Israeli standards, it is thus not inhuman to take detainees and prisoners before a mock firing squad or be led to mock gallows, in callous attempts to drive fear and pain into their hearts.

But even if the highest court in Israel finally decides against the legality of the present guidelines on torture, the issue will remain as to how to overturn all past convictions based on improper methods of interrogation and how to provide effective remedies to the victims of torture.

As we doubt that Israelis themselves have ever been the subject of systematic torture in their country, we have to question whether the rule of law in Israel does not accommodate two standards for justice: One for Jewish citizens and the other for Palestinians.

With the tenth session of the U.N. Committee against torture being currently in session in Geneva, it would be only right for its members to order a probe into Israeli police practices and also look at conditions in prisons where Arabs are kept in their thousands.

Israel cannot continue to plead the argument that it is a democracy (or worse still the only democracy in the Middle East) as long as its record on basic human rights is that dismal. As Israel is due to submit its reports to both committees, the one on torture and the other on civil and political rights, it should be well-understood that the two instruments apply to Israel proper as well as to the Israeli-occupied territories.

When the Israeli case comes under close scrutiny by these two bodies, there will be additional opportunities to dig deeper into some grave violations committed by the Jewish state against Palestinians. The picture that emerges will no doubt compromise Israel's image as a democratic state that respects the human rights of others. But will Israel ever draw from it the right lesson namely that occupation can only lead to more repression, more violence and widespread suffering?

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday tackled the question of continued sanctions on Iraq in general and the U.N. refusal to allow the Iraqis to retrieve its civilian planes that had taken refuge in other countries just before the Gulf war. The Iraqis want the planes for civilian purposes, including the transportation of pilgrims to the holy places in Saudi Arabia, said the daily. The United Nations remains adamant in its position and is taking just stands against Iraq which is totally committed to implementing the sanctions, the paper said. Depriving the Iraqis of the right to retrieve their own planes can only exacerbate the Iraqi population's suffering and continue to impede the Iraqi authorities' drive to supply the people with food and medicine, the paper said. Such inhuman practices against the Iraqi people are violations of human rights and an immoral exercise against a U.N. member nation, the paper continued. The time has come for the Sanctions Committee at the United Nations to view objectively and positively the whole situation in light of the needs of the Iraqi people so that the Security Council can take a more positive and just resolution, demanded the paper. It said that being cruel to the Iraqis, under the pretext of international legitimacy, can by no means contribute to the establishment of security and peace in the Gulf.

FAHED AL Fanek, a columnist in AL RA'I Saturday demanded that the present election law be changed because it does not cater in any way to the needs of the present stage of democracy and falls far short of meeting the requirements of justice. The writer said that the present law is a farce created by the 1986 Parliament which, at the time, did not have actual representation of the people. The election law divides the constituencies in a manner that does not reflect the actual distribution of the people and the opportunities for the candidates are not equal for winning, said the writer. He said that there are numerous loopholes in the present election law that make it obsolete, especially since the last experiment proved it to be difficult to apply equitably and fairly, continued the writer. He said that for example under the present law, a citizen can vote for six candidates in one area while in another constituency, a local citizen can only vote for two more. We will be supportive of Palestinians and trying to secure

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Sales tax — a painful setback

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

After publishing over 20 columns, in Al Ra'i (Arabic) and the Jordan Times, to support the sales tax draft law, I do not lack the courage to withdraw my support for the law. Not because I have backed off my position, but because the minister of finance has retreated and abandoned most of the salient points in the original draft. Unfortunately, he gave in to the pressures of the private sector's monsters; thus the law became tailored to the wishes of big business, at the expense of the treasury and the vast majority of the people. It is a pity that the minister of finance, the champion of the economic adjustment programme, was unable to take the heat and chose to appease the importers and submit to their demands.

The worst and most unfortunate concession that the minister of finance, and consequently the government, gave to importers is that the sales tax will be applicable to the cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value of imports i.e., before adding the cost of customs duty. This alteration is obviously a stab in the back of domestic industry, which is required to pay the same rate, but applicable to the whole price of the commodity, including even the elements of income tax and profits. This technical change means a reduction of one third of the tax on imports.

Such a practice obviously runs contrary to the best interest of the national economy. It favours imports and shifts jobs from the domestic economy to the economies of the countries from where the imports originate. This is of course against the interests of the working class, especially when unemployment is still as high as 18 per cent of the labour force.

The second concession made, or about to be made, by the minister of finance is the exemption of services from the sales tax. Lawyers, engineers, architects, auditors, advertising agents and other all-mighty professionals would not give their blessing to the law as long as the sales tax would reach them.

This concession means that the law lost what remained of its neutrality. It penalises the commodity production sector which deserves every encouragement and favours the inflated services sector which forms two thirds of the economy.

I am not sorry for the relentless campaign I have led to justify the sales tax as an integral part of the economic adjustment programme. The sales tax I defended and promoted was a reform, in the right direction, to the present consumption tax. However, after all the deals, concessions and distortions there is no more a reform whatsoever, only a change of name, which the International Monetary Fund (IMF) may be naive enough to accept.

Among other concessions extracted from the minister of finance is the reduction of the general rate from 10 to five per cent. Officials assured us that the proceeds of the new sales tax will be substantially equal to the proceeds of the old consumption tax, which it will replace. We cannot understand now how the proceeds will continue to be financially neutral when the general rate is halved. It is not reasonable to continue to claim that the proceeds will be neutral irrespective of the rate.

The economic neutrality is also out of question when we have four different rates, namely: zero, 5 per cent, 10 per cent, and 20 per cent. The wide variation of the tax creates artificial

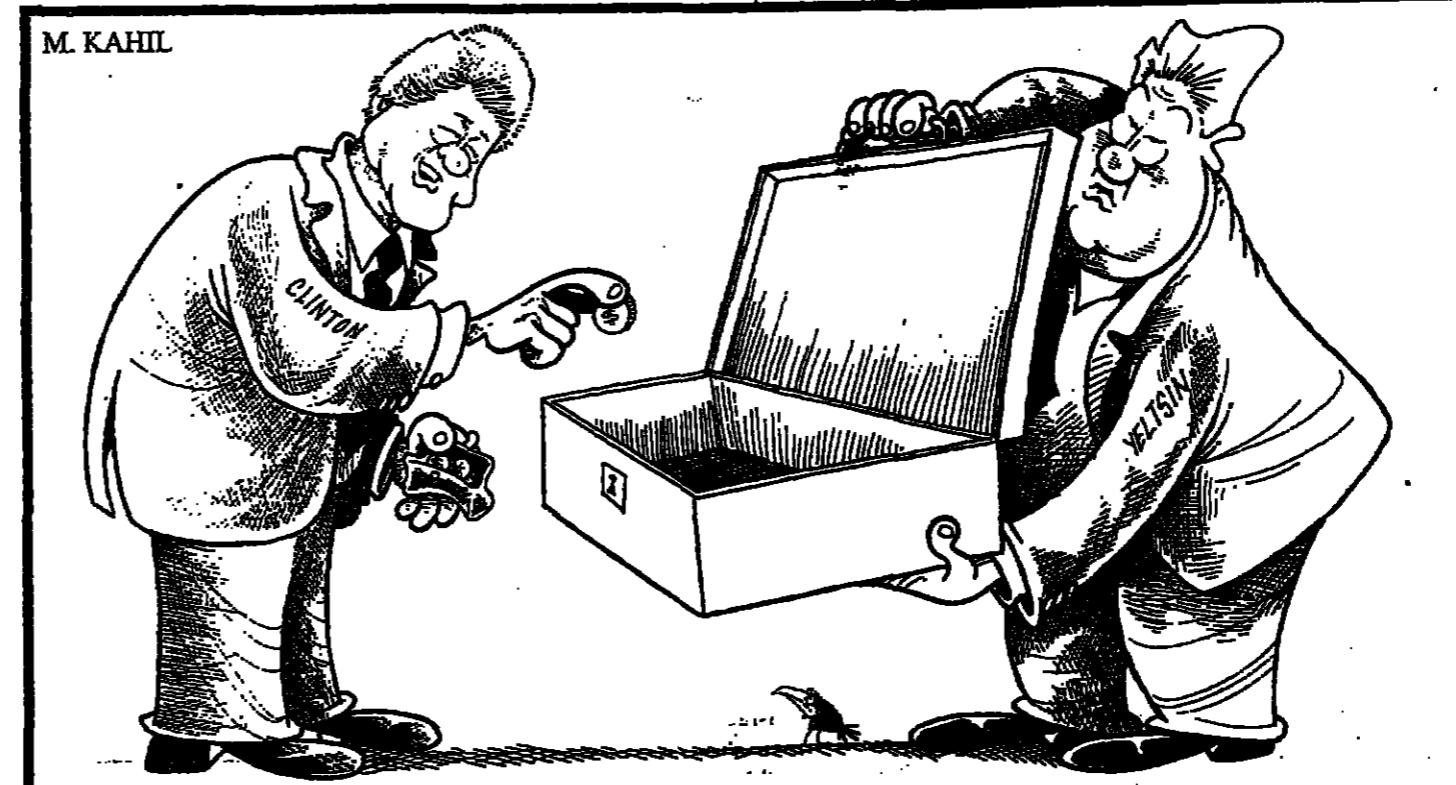
advantages and disadvantages and operates as an incentive to alter the behaviour of both investors and consumers at the expense of economic feasibility considerations and economic sense. This is a new distortion introduced into the economy to worsen the allocation of resources.

It was argued that the concession given to importers was meant to prevent price changes, up and down, of certain commodities in the market, because without this concession prices of imports may rise between three per cent and 10 per cent, and the competing local commodities would look less expensive. This justification is meaningless, because the sales tax, either before or after the concession, will alter the prices of certain commodities anyway as long as the rates of the new sales tax will not be the same as the rates of the present consumption tax and many commodities which will be charged with sales tax were not subjected to the previous consumption tax.

Being the first and perhaps the only outspoken defender of the unpopular sales tax, I hereby distance myself from this law in its latest distorted version which is no longer a tax reform. On the contrary, it will create new distortions. I am saddened by the fact that the determination to adhere to the economic adjustment programme started to fade out and that the officials, which were the symbols of determination, started to give in and make concessions. Unless the sales tax law is restored to its original version, the whole economic reform and the adjustment programme will be put into jeopardy.

As the dust settles post-referendum, expect more chaos

By John-Lee P. Holmes



On the rebound from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations' provision of \$43.4 billion in overall aid, Russian President Boris Yeltsin hopes to gain a favourable electoral "bounce" in today's referendum. Around \$2 billion in Western aid is scheduled to be released within the next few months, too late to have an immediate psychological impact.

Accordingly, while it is not certain how the aid announcement will affect the referendum, it seems more likely that, to the extent that it has any impact at all, the G-7 gesture will tend to reinforce rather than adjust preexisting attitudes.

Mr. Yeltsin's support, according to trends measured in the 1991 election and recent opinion surveys, is stronger in the urban areas and among the youth. But the latter are among those expected to show the lowest turnout at the polls Sunday.

In the provinces, where the four-question ballot will be won or lost, disapproval of the president remains high and it is here that Mr. Yeltsin has concentrated his electioneering. Yet Mr. Yeltsin's trips to Siberia and other important voting areas have not shown the kind of Western-style gladhanding that characterised his 1991 election victory. Instead he has focused on backroom deals with provincial, agro-farm and state industry bosses. Patronage, especially at the provincial level, has been targeted as the primary agent of political influence.

Mr. Yeltsin has gambled on the seasoned observation that, whether a legacy of communism or of the feudal system Lenin allegedly built, rural Russian voters tend to rely upon the "suggested" choice of their state farm boss or factory head. It has been widely rumoured that as part of this strategy a tacit agreement between Mr. Yeltsin and these regional power brokers has evolved which will legitimise the devolution of power to the regions.

In return, these regional brokers have agreed to allow the referendum to go forward (many have not abided by Moscow's authority for some time) and are likely to encourage support for Yeltsin. The embattled Russian leader also enjoys some important

support from the mass media, especially television. The two primary stations (the president nominates their principals) have given him hours of public access with little or no countervailing air time for Yeltsin opponents from within the Congress of People's Deputies.

The print media has been less one-sided, however. With respect to the largest dailies, Izvestia has supported Mr. Yeltsin in an editorial clash with Pravda, an advocate for Mr. Yeltsin's opponents. The public debate, by all accounts, has become increasingly shrill and didactic.

Amidst all of this posturing with respect to the content of the referendum an important compromise regarding the counting rules for the plebiscite was agreed upon by the constitutional court just days before the opening of the polls.

The court decided that of the four questions asked on the referendum — do you have confidence in the president; do you approve of the social and economic policies implemented since 1992; do you think elections for the president ought to be held; do you think elections for the congress ought to be held — the first two will be won by the side receiving over 50 per cent from among those who actually turn

out to vote (the procedure favoured by Mr. Yeltsin) and the latter two according to whether they can gain the approval of over 50 per cent of the total 106 million electorate (the procedure originally designated by the congress for all four questions).

Parliamentary Speaker Russian Khasbulatov announced shortly after the court's decision, however, that his resistance to Mr. Yeltsin would not be halted unless he wins a total electorate majority and the speaker will not accept a turnout majority as granting Mr. Yeltsin a mandate.

The actual turnout counting rule, used by most governments in the world and statistically representative of the total electorate's opinion, was favoured by Mr. Yeltsin because the total electorate counting rule makes it mathematically very difficult to win. Even if Mr. Yeltsin achieves a high 80 per cent voter turnout (85 million voters) he would still need 54 million or 63 per cent of those turning out to vote to secure over 50 per cent of the total electorate as opposed to needing only 43 million to gain a majority under normal election procedures.

In the 1991 presidential contest, for example, Mr. Yeltsin

and Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi secured 57 per cent of those who voted. Yet this was only roughly a third of the total electorate.

Unfortunately, the constitutional court's compromise, while it may allow Mr. Yeltsin to squeeze past with a narrow margin on the first question (the second is even less likely to gain Mr. Yeltsin a "da", however), does not bode well for the last two. And this is a recipe for post-referendum chaos.

Even on the first question, recent polls project that Mr. Yeltsin is losing steam. A late March poll by the pro-radical reform Izvestia said some 60 per cent "trust" Mr. Yeltsin as opposed to only two per cent for Speaker Khasbulatov and 12 per cent for Vice-President Rutskoi. In the most recent survey, reported on the BBC Saturday, Mr. Yeltsin scored slightly less than the 50 per cent of likely voters.

Neither Mr. Khasbulatov nor Mr. Rutskoi is likely to endure as a national leader in his own right. Someone else will have to emerge as a challenge Mr. Yeltsin. Mr. Khasbulatov is a Chechen at a time when Russian troops are engaging Chechen irregular forces in the breakaway republic.

Mr. Rutskoi, an Afghanistan war hero, helped secure the military and farmer vote for Mr. Yeltsin two years ago but has not been able to parlay any popularity success from his recent turn against the president. The vice-president's actions and Mr. Yeltsin's counterattack have only had the effect of peeling off support from Mr. Yeltsin and have not been beneficial either Mr. Rutskoi or Mr. Khasbulatov.

As a result, even if the most likely scenario obtains — Mr. Yeltsin wins narrowly on the confidence vote but loses on the reform question — this will produce no mandate in either direction and there will be no one of stature to take Mr. Yeltsin's place.

On top of this, with respect to the latter two questions, it is likely that given the high, nearly insurmountable, hurdles set by the counting rules (and especially given the widely reported voter apathy) an outright sanctioning of new elections of the congress or the president will not be granted.

Most observers agree that a new election for the Congress of People's Deputies is a prerequisite for a resolution of the current political crisis. Indeed, long-term stability requires the drafting of a new constitution and the legitimacy of this pro-

when it achieved any of objectives that were obviously the target of all others — in terms of the solution based on 242, land for peace, the occupied territories of 1967, Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil. You may have the impression of the idea, the belief, that all that territory was Israeli. Now we see a different approach...

But I know that we are seeking

a solution which future genera-

tions can live with and can pro-

tection,

can feel has given them a chance to live in peace in that region. We have had too many obstacles in the very outset but let us hope that now we will proceed.

Q: What specifically does Jordan want out of these talks? Are you still hopeful one day you will get East Jerusalem back?

A: It is too early to suggest that such is the case.

Q: Because some say there they

could see no difference in the

approach between Mr. Shamir

and Mr. Rabin, except Mr. Peres

saying that you can have self-rule,

and that we would not fall hostage in the immediate future for any further action on the side of any to try to derail us from trying to achieve our objectives.

Q: Because we have Mr. Rabin

saying that he is in no mood to

make any concession to the

peace I hope a formula would be found if we have the vision all of us would ensure that Jerusalem becomes a meeting place where the rights of all are preserved. Q: You have been on the throne nearly 40 years. You are about to celebrate that fact. Aren't you feeling world-weary with all that you have been through, this time

and time again? Aren't you begin-

ning to feel that this is too much of a burden to carry?

A: I do not believe it is as heavy

as it has always been, but one has

never lived for oneself or for the

moment. If I succeed in bringing the region closer to peace it will be a kind of achievement of my

struggle.

Jordan urges movement of labour

(Continued from page 1)

safe and stable channels for com-

modities, interests and persons,

and as junctions for national net-

works of roads, water, electricity

and communication. This new

concept has the virtue of bringing

its production base; and taking

active part in the process of crea-

tive thinking active part in the

process of creative thinking and

forming positive practices and

conventions in society. May the

present decade witness begin-

nings that espouse such major

tasks so that Arab societies



Arab teams head for bilaterals

(Continued from page 1)

Husseini told about 300 merchants: "This is just talk. Those who are asking the delegation to withdraw should have a better alternative."

"This is not a battle for liberating Palestine," Mr. Husseini added. "We are trying to reach a political solution, not an ideological one."

Delegates Ghassan Khatib and Samir Abdullah of the communist People's Party have said they would stay away because Israel refuses to promise an end to its policies.

The head of the delegation, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, told the Associated Press Friday he had not yet decided whether he would go to Washington. He said he had "full sympathy" for the two delegations who decided to stay away.

In the West Bank town of Ramallah, 35 relatives of expellees demonstrated Saturday outside the home of Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the delegation.

"Our people are damning you," shouted one woman when Mr. Husseini came out to talk to the protesters. "God will punish you," yelled another. "Where are our sons, husbands and brothers?" read a placard.

Mr. Husseini said the delegation would withdraw if nothing tangible was being achieved. Ten bodyguards carrying clubs watched the debate from two parked cars, but did not intervene.

Security for Palestinian delegates has been tightened following threats by Muslim militants against them.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, vowed Saturday to intensify attacks against Israel to thwart the peace talks and abandoned reconciliation efforts with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Ibrahim Ghosheh, spokesman for the Hamas faction, told a news conference in Amman the escalation in violence will be aimed against Israel's military rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But he stressed that Hamas will not attack other Palestinian factions or members of the Palesti-

nian negotiating team.

"The leadership of Hamas issued its instructions to all its cadres inside Palestine not to resort to violence against Palestinian people or organisations, but against the Zionist enemy," Mr. Ghosheh said.

Mr. Ghosheh, one of Hamas' representatives in Jordan, bitterly denounced the PLO leadership for agreeing to resume the peace talks.

He declared that Hamas will not attend a planned reconciliation meeting with the PLO scheduled for Monday in Khartoum, Sudan.

Mr. Ghosheh warned of "serious divisions that threaten the unity of the Palestinian people" over the peace talks.

In Mar Al Zohour, Lebanon, the nearly 400 Palestinian expellees stranded in southeast Lebanon will march on Israeli army lines Monday to protest the resumption of the peace talks, their spokesman said Saturday.

The spokesman, Gaza physician Abdul Aziz Rantisi, also rejected the PLO call upon all Palestinians to close ranks behind the leadership's decision to resume the peace talks.

"In response to the grave decision to return to the talks and betrayal of the deportees' cause, we shall stage a new march toward Zommariya Monday, the 26th of April," Dr. Rantisi told reporters.

Zommariya is on the northeastern edge of a self-styled "security zone" Israel occupies in South Lebanon.

The Damascus-based Fatah-Intifada led by Abu Musa which opposes the PLO warned the Palestinian delegates against going back to the negotiating table.

It held "the deviationist (PLO) leadership responsible for resumption of the talks and warned the Palestinian delegation members of this policy's dangers."

The PLO also called on Palestinians to unite behind its decision to resume talks with Israel.

It said support for the Palestinian delegation to the talks was necessary "so it can continue its strife on the negotiations front."

The statement added: "The PLO calls on our great struggling people and the valiant militants of the uprising to show more unity and to close ranks to foil the plots of the enemies to undermine this unity."

Palestinian leader, Israel Al-Husseini said Saturday that the faction of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) which has been fighting since 1983 against what it sees as the domination of the mainly Christian and animist south by the Arabised government in the north.

The SPLA was to have three other members in the rebel military council, Gen. Bashir said.

He said a council of ministers was also to be formed under Saleh Al-Mahdi who was prime minister until his overthrow in 1989.

Sudan accuses Egypt of plot

(Continued from page 1)

set up a 13-man military council after overthrowing his regime headed by retired General Fathi Ahmad Ali who was army commander when Gen. Bashir seized power in June 1989.

Gen. Al's deputy was to be Gen. Garang, leader of the main faction of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) which has been fighting since 1983 against what it sees as the domination of the mainly Christian and animist south by the Arabised government in the north.

At his news conference in Khartoum Gen. Bashir said the commander of the "invading forces" was to have been retired army Brigadier Abdul Aziz Khalid who is now in Nairobi, Kenya. He said the plotters intended to

Christopher: Meaningful Palestinian self-government possible

WASHINGTON (USA) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher says that "serious and meaningful Palestinian self-government is possible as an interim stage toward negotiated final status."

Addressing the annual convention of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) Friday, Mr. Christopher said that the objective of the negotiating process "is a real peace that will see occupation give way to interim self-government arrangements and a new relationship between Israelis and Palestinians."

Following are major excerpts from Mr. Christopher's speech:

The end of the cold war has created an unusual opportunity for progress toward peace in the region. In the Middle East, such opportunities are unlikely to last very long, and the cost of lost opportunity is very high indeed.

It is precisely because of the recognition of these costs, that every Administration for over the last four decades — Democratic and Republican alike — has played an active role in the search for peace in the Middle East.

"The promise of peace — the benefits that will flow from peace — are becoming more apparent to all the parties. A negotiated settlement would be built on a number of principles, including land for peace, the realisation of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, security for all parties, and the normalisation of relations in the area. By securing peace, terrorists can be marginalised. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction can be curbed. And the promise of regional economic growth and cooperation can be fulfilled."

"The Middle East does not have to stand in the world as a cauldron of hostility. Instead, it can move ahead to grasp the promise of peace."

"What we do oppose is extremism or fanaticism, whether of a religious or secular nature. We part company with those who preach intolerance, abuse human rights, or resort to violence in pursuit of their political goals," Christopher said.

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Peace Process

As you know, two days ago, the parties agreed to return to the peace talks in Washington next Tuesday, April 27th, after a five-month hiatus. We welcome this

development. Too much time has been lost. Now is the time for real progress, and now is the time to help the peacemakers — not those determined to destroy any possibility of making peace in the region. Together, we must seize the chance to negotiate a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace settlement, based upon United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Indeed, the objective of this process is a real peace that will see occupation give way to interim self-government arrangements and a new relationship between Israelis and Palestinians. This includes the disarming of all militias and the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.

In the bilateral talks between Israel and Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, the parties have been addressing the core issues of territory, security and peace. This is the right track. With continued commitment and hard work, the parties involved can find that peace is increasingly possible, desirable and even irresistible.

armed forces.

I also want to emphasise that we continue to support full implementation of both the letter and spirit of the Taif accord. This includes the disarming of all militias and the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.

Concerning Iraq, President Clinton has clearly reaffirmed the continuity of our policy. I want to take this occasion to stress that Iraq must fully comply with all U.N. resolutions.

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Democracy, Human Rights and Islam

The promotion of democracy and respect for human rights is one of the three pillars of President Clinton's foreign policy. I know, however, that there is concern, both within and outside the region, over Islamic fundamentalism and its effect on the stability and policies of many of these countries.

Tonight, I would like to state clearly that Islam is not our enemy. Nor do we consider Islam a threat to world peace or to regional security. What we do oppose is extremism or fanaticism, whether of a religious or secular nature. We part company with those who preach intolerance, abuse human rights, or resort to violence in pursuit of their political goals.

While we cannot impose our own form of government on others, we strongly support those who share and seek to encourage democratic values in their countries.

As with the peace process, the United States stands ready to work with our friends in the region toward the important goals of peace, stability and social justice.

In the end, of course, it will be up to the people and the governments of the Middle East to shape the future of their region. If they are successful, the benefits of true peace and prosperity will fall to future generations of Muslims, Jews and Christians, for the first time in these ancient lands.

I want you to know that this president and this secretary of state intend to move the peace process forward, to remain engaged, and to retain the trust of all parties to this historic quest.

PLO lists 'assurances' package

(Continued from page 1)

The principle of exchanging land for peace) as the rules of reference for the negotiations at all stages," and

"The reaffirmation by the American sponsor of the commitment to the ground rules of the peace process, including the principle of land for peace and the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights."

The PLO also called on Palestinians to unite behind its decision to resume talks with Israel.

It said support for the Palestinian delegation to the talks was necessary "so it can continue its strife on the negotiations front."

The statement added: "The PLO calls on our great struggling people and the valiant militants of the uprising to show more unity and to close ranks to foil the plots of the enemies to undermine this unity."

Mr. Al-Husseini said Saturday that Palestinians could use other means to settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict if negotiations with Israel failed.

He had "11 suitcases full of compromising material" on senior government members implicating them in illegal deals with foreign firms.

Mr. Ratsko's claims lie at the heart of growing discontent among Russians.

Yeltsin issues last appeal to voters

(Continued from page 1)

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Sports

Edberg upset by wind and Pioline

MONTE CARLO (R) — Swirling winds and the dogged determination of unseeded Frenchman Cedric Pioline blew top seed Stefan Edberg out of the \$1.65-million Monte Carlo Open Saturday.

The Swede, clearly perturbed by a Mediterranean gale which sent clouds of dust blowing across court, lost 6-4 6-4 in one of the biggest upsets of the tournament.

The on-form Pioline, who had beaten third seed Petr Korda of the Czech Republic Thursday, became the first Frenchman to reach the final in Monte Carlo since Yannick Noah in 1986.

But though Pioline deserved credit for an enterprising game in which he put a lot of pressure on Edberg, the wind reduced the match to a lottery which would have been more suited to the nearby casino.

Edberg's usually deadly volley was a blunt weapon for once. He put away just one winning volley in the entire match and, appropriately enough, lost on Pioline's fourth match point by putting a backhand volley into the net.

The 23-year-old Parisian advanced to only the second final of his career. In his first last year in



Austrian Thomas Muster (left) and Spanish Alex Corretja shake hands after their quarterfinal match at the Monte Carlo Open. Muster beat Corretja to qualify for the semifinals to face Sergi Bruguera (AFP photo)

Lyon, he lost heavily in straight sets to American Pete Sampras.

On Sunday he will attempt to become the first Frenchman to win in the principality in 30 years

when he plays either last year's winner Thomas Muster of Austria or the 1991 champion Sergi Bruguera of Spain.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Caniggia to seek reduction of suspension

ROME (AP) — Argentine national team and AS Roma striker Claudio Caniggia hopes an appeal can reduce his 13-month-suspension for cocaine use, an AS Roma team official said. AS Roma vice president Aldo Pasquali said the club will appeal the suspension and a 10-million-lire (\$66,600) fine imposed by the Italian Soccer Tribunal on the club for indirect responsibility in the case. "It's a sad moment for Claudio, but he's looking forward to continuing his career with Roma and with his national team," Pasquali said. He said the 26-year-old forward has expressed his desire to play with Argentina in the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

Rominger, Delgado favourites in Tour of Spain

MADRID (AP) — Spaniard Pedro Delgado may be the sentimental pick in this year's Tour of Spain and defending champion Tony Rominger the logical choice. Whatever happens, this is likely to be the last chance either aging cyclist has of winning one of Europe's three major cycling tours. The 21-day marathon — 3,576.3 kilometres (2,217.3 miles) across Spain — begins Monday in the northwestern port of La Coruna and ends May 16 just 60 kilometres down the road in the neighbouring Galician city of Santiago de Compostela.

Athletico in Cup protest

MADRID (AP) — Atletico Madrid Saturday protested to the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) over the handing of their Cup Winners' Cup semi-final second leg against Parma on Thursday by German referee Aron Schmidhuber. Atletico, who won the game but lost the tie on aggregate, have asked for a protest to be made to Uefa and are angry that they were not awarded two penalties.

Little League Baseball

Results of games played April 23:

Coach Pitch Division
Modern Schools — 12
Epson — 14

Sipes — 8
Alphacan — 14

STANDINGS:

Coach Pitch Division
1. Alphacan W-2, L-0
2. Sipes W-1, L-1
3. Epsilon W-1, L-1
4. Modern School W-0, L-2

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

A LESSON IN SUIT ESTABLISHMENT

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ 5
♦ K 6 4
♦ Q 4 3
♦ A K 6 2

WEST EAST
♦ K J 8 7 ♦ Q 10 4
♦ 9 8 7 5 ♦ 10 2
♦ 10 5 ♦ 9 8 2
♦ Q 10 8 ♦ Q 9 7 5

SOUTH
♦ A 9 6 3 2
♦ V A Q J 3
♦ A 5
♦ 4 3

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♦

We are indebted to Bridge Today

for this fine hand by Terence Reese.

The winning line is simple, yet not

easy to spot, even looking at all four hands.

Suppose you reach six hearts via

an auction such as the above. The

Mayorian 4-3 fit should play very

well and, allowing for the normal 4-2

Navratilova and Co. stay away

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Putting together a high-profile tennis team to represent the United States in international competition is no easy task these days.

First, the top men's players like Pete Sampras, Jim Courier, Andre Agassi and Michael Chang passed up the Davis Cup and their replacements were eliminated by Australia in the first round last month. Now the marquee women are unavailable for this summer's Federation Cup.

The United States Tennis Association chose Pam Shriver, Lori McNeil, Lindsay Davenport and Ann Grossman for July 19-26 event at Frankfurt, Germany. McNeil owns the highest ranking of the four at No. 19. Shriver is No. 28, Davenport No. 41 and Grossman No. 47.

Conspicuous by their absence were more familiar names like Martina Navratilova, Mary Joe Fernandez and Jennifer Capriati, all ranked among the top seven players in the world.

What's going on here?

"We were a little disappointed that we couldn't get a team with higher rankings," said Dr. Gary Lee, co-chairman of the USTA's Federation Cup Committee. "Every one of those other players had prior commitments."

The United States has won 14



Federation Cup titles, more than

any other nation, but has not won the title since 1990. Both Shriver and McNeil played on the Federation Cup team last year that lost in the semifinals to Germany.

Shriver will be playing Federation Cup for the eighth time and McNeil for the fifth.

Davenport, 16, is a product of the USTA's Player Development

Programme and started the year ranked No. 159. Grossman, 22, was a member of the 1988 USTA national team and reached the fourth round of the 1989 and 1991 French Opens.

Marty Riessen, captain of the

team for eight years, said, "we've

got a mix of some more mature

players and some young, up-and-

coming players. Pam and Lori are

very patriotic and are always will-

ing to play Federation Cup."

Still, Lee said, tennis fans have

to look at the roster and wonder

about it.

Martina is playing team tennis,"

he said. "Mary Joe and Jennifer are committed to an

event in New Jersey. Hopefully,

next year we will be able to

prevent these conflicts."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY APRIL 25, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astralloger, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Avoid that pal who loves to gossip and makes you nervous as you carry through with your commitments to others who are depending on you. Show tact in handling other annoying problems if diplomatic.

AKIES: March 21 to April 19 Get into whatever practical matters are facing you. Set them as they actually are, handle them and tonight have a happy romantic evening with your mate.

TAURUS: April 20 to May 18 Query whatever associates are about as to how you and they can be more effective in whatever your joint interests happen to be. Tonight go to new sites with a partner.

GEMINI: May 21 to June 19 Approach every phase of your daily duties as though you can get away with you have not considered before and you make big progress with tasks.

MOON CHILDREN: June 22 to July 21 Make arrangements for a pleasant time for today and in the new week during the day and in the evening show special affection for your best means for procuring them more readily.

LEO: July 22 August 19 Whatever you have in mind about how and when can now be worked out by a more serious and investigative approach and tonight entertain at your home.

PISCES: February 20 to March 20 Think about the new goals that activate you and delve into them so you become expert in understanding them and you aid your growth and success.

where you can gain the knowledge that will make your daily routines more productive and put them into motion at once.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your present material situation requires some steady and better awareness how to rightly handle your assets and liabilities, tonight discuss money with an expert.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can preoccupy yourself with whatever your personal desires happen to be during the day and make out well, but tonight be out with good friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look at whatever has been troubling you and you will be able to view it in a more constructive light and get it in back of you by steadfastness.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you feel is the best place for you to get the things you have been looking for in your best means for procuring them more readily.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) If you have any worldly situation requiring careful thought and especially where credit is concerned, now is the day to handle with care caution.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think about the new goals that activate you and delve into them so you become expert in understanding them and you aid your growth and success.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

—THAT SCRABBLE-WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GLEEY

OTTOH

ROCTAV

SUNDAY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: MAXIM INKED SATIRE DEVICE

Answer: What the terrible-tampered sugar grower did—RAISED CANE

THE Daily Crossword

by Melvin Kenworthy

ACROSS

1. Treat window

6. Gap

10. Insult

14. Sophia of the

screen

15. Star follower

16. Grain grinder

17. " — give you anything..."

18. Money that is assessed

19. brewe

20. Cluster of seven stars

22. Exhausted

23. Suit to —

24. Most lanky

26. January

28. Roman household deity

30. Director Kazan

32. Grilled

37. USA word abbr

38. Annoyed

Bosnian Serb leader baulks again at U.N. peace plan

BELGRADE (R) — Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic refused to support a revised U.N. peace plan Saturday and accused the West of pushing warring Muslims, Croats and Serbs "to get together like dog and cat."

He met peace envoy Lord Owen to discuss changes to the plan which Lord Owen said Serbs could "settle with honour" before Monday when the U.N. has set a deadline for the imposition of harsher sanctions on Serb-led Yugoslavia.

After three hours of talks, Mr. Karadzic condemned the plan as anti-Serbian and said he would not ask the Bosnian Serb parliament to sign it at a decisive session Sunday.

"I will not recommend the parliament either to accept or reject," he told reporters in Belgrade. "I am going to present the facts. It has to be done by the people."

Mr. Karadzic claimed the plan to divide Bosnia into 10 ethnic cantons would force 500,000 Serbs to flee their homes in areas under Muslim or Croat control.

"If we accept this, we are finished in these regions," he added. "Why are you pushing us to get together like dog and cat? It's simply impossible to live together. We have to separate to be good neighbours."

Bosnian Muslims and Croats have already signed the plan drawn up by Lord Owen and co-mediator Cyrus Vance.

Lord Owen, clearly angered, refused to comment on the appa-

rent collapse of his diplomacy to avert new sanctions and the threat of Western air strikes against Bosnian Serb supply lines.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said at a European Community meeting in Denmark that the United States, France and Britain would discuss next week whether to use military force.

Lord Owen had hoped to persuade Mr. Karadzic to support a U.N.-controlled corridor across a Croat sector of north Bosnia which would link Serb enclaves separated by the cantonal frontiers.

"If anybody's had any doubts about the proposal for the northern corridor, just remember that the Berlin corridor kept us away from a third world war for 30 years," Lord Owen said before he met Mr. Karadzic.

Diplomats said an even bigger obstacle to Serb agreement than the northern corridor was the plan's allocation of Bosnia's eastern region, on the Serbian border, to Muslims.

Mr. Karadzic hinted at this when he said Lord Owen "does not allow any discussion of the structure of the (ethnic) maps. He only recommended various arrangements on the right of passage."

Serbs regard the area as strategically vital and have expelled most of the Muslim population since the start of the civil war a year ago.

Hostility to U.N. mediation hardened at a meeting of the Serb

parliament in Novi Grad in northeast Bosnia despite strong pressure from Yugoslav leaders to head off sanctions.

Bosnian Serb Vice-President Biljana Plavsic said Mr. Karadzic's stance was "the only correct thing to do. Lord Owen's offer was a big trick on the Serb people camouflaged as a concession."

Lord Owen left Belgrade later to meet Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

Scores of people have been killed in the past week in an upsurge of fighting in central Bosnia between Muslim and Croat forces who used to be allied against the Serbs.

Sarajevo Radio said Mr. Izetbegovic accused the Croatian Defence Force (HVO) in Bosnia of trying to carve out a state within a state and intended to ask Mr. Tudjman "what he really wants."

British U.N. forces in the war zone said a ceasefire was starting to stabilise and that both sides were starting to withdraw fighting units.

They reported that HVO units had laid mines to prevent British armoured vehicles approaching burning Muslim villages.

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Friday cancelled a visit to Zagreb to receive an honorary university degree because she was appalled by "horrible attacks by Croats on Muslims" in Bosnia.

A senior aide to President Izetbegovic dismissed Mr. Karadzic

as "completely mad" Saturday after his rejection of the modified peace plan.

Kemal Mustic, counsellor to Mr. Izetbegovic, said the president had been expecting the rejection when he met the Sarajevo just before the news came through with a U.N. Security Council delegation.

The Bosnian president told the Security Council delegation that his signature of the original plan still stood, and said that if the plan had failed, the Security Council would have to be prepared to use force against the Serbs and except the outgunned Bosnian army from an arms embargo against all Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile, the self-proclaimed Serb republics in Bosnia and Croatia agreed to merge their parliaments Saturday but stopped short of formally uniting.

A joint session of the parliaments in the northeast Bosnian town of Bosanski Novi on the border with Croatia voted by 152 to two in favour of the measure with six abstentions.

The unrecognised republics, created by rebel Serbs since Croatia and Bosnia left former Yugoslavia, decided to pursue common policies but to retain their own presidents and governments.

Political leaders said they could move quickly towards full unification if the west tightened sanctions against Yugoslavia or launched air strikes against Bosnian Serbs.



A British U.N. soldier tries to locate a sniper firing on British positions from a hill above the partly destroyed village of Jeljnik in Bosnia (AFP photo)

Massive blast rocks London

LONDON (AP) — An explosion rocked London's financial district Saturday, showering passersby with flying glass and injuring at least 34 people.

Police reported no deaths. St. Bartholomew's Hospital reported

receiving 24 injured, among them five seriously wounded, while London Hospital said it admitted 10 people for shock and glass wounds.

Police said they feared more injured people remained trapped or incapacitated inside bomb-damaged buildings.

The blast shattered glass in scores of bank buildings and businesses, among them the 52-storey National Westminster Tower, the financial district's tallest structure.

No one immediately claimed

responsibility for the blast. Bank for Reconstruction and Development were "shaken but not shaken" and continued their discussions of aid to Eastern Europe, said spokeswoman Rebecca Hill.

The IRA had suspended bombing in England after killing two boys aged 3 and 12 in a double bomb attack March 20 on a crowded shopping precinct in Warrington, northwest England.

The atrocity provoked large anti-IRA rallies in London and Dub-

lin. "Warrington gave them very very bad publicity," said Colonel Mike Dewar.

Col. Dewar said the IRA clearly was sending the signal Saturday that, despite the furor over the Warrington deaths, their campaign will continue.

Sri Lankan police find body of former minister's suspected killer

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Deposed Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrived in Karachi Saturday to a tumultuous welcome from thousands of supporters and police sprayed tear-gas into a crowd waiting to see him.

"Long live Nawaz Sharif. Long live Nawaz Sharif," supporters shouted when Mr. Sharif arrived at Karachi Airport from the Punjab provincial capital Lahore, his power-base.

Sitting cross-legged on the roof of a yellow taxi, Mr. Sharif waved and flashed victory signs to the cheering crowd that pealed him with rose petals as he drove out of the airport in a huge procession.

Mr. Sharif was sacked last Sunday by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for alleged corruption and terrorising his opponents after a bitter two-month power struggle between the country's two top leaders.

During his tenure as national security Minister, Mr. Athulath-

mudali was responsible for spearheading the National Security Forces' war against the Tigers.

The funeral of the leader of the Democratic United Liberation Front, who was campaigning for elections to seven regional councils when he was shot, will be held Wednesday.

The government has offered a five million rupee (\$106,000) reward for the killer's capture.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa condemned the attack, saying in a condolence message that "every right-thinking person should condemn the killing."

But members of the opposition Democratic United National Front, of which Mr. Athulathmudali was a leader, accused a government death squad of the murder.

The UNP controls all seven provincial councils, which have wide regional powers, but is likely to lose at least three to a five-party opposition and the DUNP.

Mr. Premadasa asked detec-

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

China, U.K. end first round of talks

PEKING (R) — China and Britain ended their first round of talks on Hong Kong's political future Saturday and agreed to hold a second round on April 28 and 29, the British embassy said. The brief statement, also issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry, gave no details of progress in the talks, designed to end a six-month-old row. A British embassy spokeswoman declined to characterise the first round of talks, which began Thursday. Both sides have kept a diplomatic silence over the negotiations.

S. African journalist found dead

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A black South African television reporter was found dead one day after he and his white cameraman were attacked by youths in Sharpeville township south of the city, police said Saturday. He has been hacked to death. South African Broadcasting Corporation journalist Calvin Thuso, who went missing shortly after he and his colleague Dudley Saunders were attacked by about 20 youths, was found in the outskirts of the township. Saunders, the cameraman, was wounded in the head, back and arm and was suffering from concussion. A police patrol saved him after the youths surrounded the television crew's car. He could not say what had happened to Thuso. The crew was in Sharpeville to report on desecration of black graves by white right-wing extremists.

3 killed in Chechenia clash

MOSCOW (AFP) — Supporters of Chechenian President Dzhokhar Dudayev lobbed a handgrenade in their battle to dislodge the sacked interior minister from his offices, wounding three people. Interfax agency reported Saturday. But the president's militia failed to install the new minister, whom Mr. Dudayev appointed last weekend after dismissing the government and the parliament of this Caucasian state, Interfax said. General Dudayev simultaneously imposed a curfew in the capital, Grozny, and accused the security forces of failing to maintain law and order. Tension has reportedly been high in Grozny, with demonstrations by supporters of both parliament and the president.

Akihito briefed on war tragedy

NAHA, Japan (AFP) — The local governor reminded Japan's Emperor Akihito of the tragedy of World War II Saturday during an unprecedented visit to Okinawa, the southernmost prefecture of his country. "Okinawa was the only site of ground battle in Japan in the last war. The battle cost not only numerous lives but also a lot of cultural assets," officials quoted Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota as telling the emperor. Mr. Ota stressed at the brief meeting in the prefectural government building that the war experience must not be forgotten and should be passed on to coming generations, in the interest of world peace. Emperor Akihito, the first reigning Japanese emperor to visit Okinawa, an island prefecture in the East China Sea about 1,600 kilometres south of Tokyo, was described as listening carefully to the governor's words.

Baird named to U.S. intelligence board

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton has named Zoe Baird, a prominent attorney without experience on intelligence matters, to an intelligence advisory board because "she's competent and qualified," the White House said Friday. Ms. Baird, a corporate lawyer, will serve on the president's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, a 12-member panel headed by retired Adm. William J. Crowe, said White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers. The position does not require Senate confirmation.

Clinton chooses NATO ambassador

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton said he will nominate Robert Hunter, a specialist in European affairs, to be U.S. ambassador to NATO. Mr. Clinton also announced he will nominate Robert Nordhaus to be general counsel at the Energy Department and Bruce Lehman to be assistant secretary of commerce and commissioner of patents and trademarks. Mr. Hunter is vice president for international politics and director of European studies at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, which is a foreign-policy think tank. Mr. Nordhaus is an attorney specialising in federal natural gas and utility regulation and one-time general counsel to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission during the Carter administration.

Nobel Prize amount raised

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — The Swedish value of the Nobel Prizes, the world's richest awards, was raised by 3 per cent Friday, to \$7.7 million kronor each. But they are still worth less than last year in dollars, because of the krona's devaluation. The prize value as of Friday was the equivalent of \$919,000. That is \$62,000 less than the prizes for literature, peace, chemistry, physics, medicine or physiology, and economics were worth when they were last handed out, on Dec. 10, 1992. At that time, they were worth 6.5 million kronor (\$973,000). The Nobel Foundation, which funds the prizes, and oversees their distribution in Norway and Sweden, elected a new chairman Friday. Bengt J. Samuelson, a 1982 winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology, will join the board on May 1 and become its chairman. He is president of the Karolinska Institute, which chooses the physiology or medicine prize winner.

4 die in Italian chemical plant leak

ROME (R) — Three workers and an ambulance man were killed by a poison gas leak at a chemical plant in northern Italy, police said Saturday. The accident occurred Friday evening at the Veneta Minirria Spa plant which produces sulphuric acid in the town of Caravaggio, east of Milan. Rescue volunteers Egidio Ambulanza to help a worker who was lying on the ground, apparently lifeless. Mr. Bottazzoli was not wearing a gas mask. Another colleague, who had also got out of the ambulance, managed to crawl back and sound the alarm.

COLUMN

Mother faces 5,000-pound fine for crying baby

LONDON (AFP) — A young mother in Cannock, northern England, has been warned by the city to stop her teething baby's crying or face a £5,000 (\$7,600) fine. The city council, after receiving numerous complaints that Jackie Whitehouse's eight-month-old daughter Zoe was waking her neighbours early in the morning, told the woman she would have to silence the child. "I'm disgusted with my neighbours for reporting me like this and with the council," said Mrs. Whitehouse, 24, who has one other child. "I try to do my best to soothe Zoe, but any mum will tell you it's the hardest job in the world." Neighbours complain that Zoe has been waking them with her crying at 5 a.m. for several months. A city council spokesman, asked about the warning, said the council was performing its "duty" in investigating "nuisance" complaints.

Woman persuades rapist to wear condom

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — A Cape Town woman who woke up to find a masked assailant in her bedroom persuaded the man to wear a condom before he raped her, police said Friday. Police said the man gained access to the woman's bedroom early Thursday, where she and her baby were sleeping. He demanded money and then said he was going to rape her. She persuaded her assailant to wear a condom, which she provided, before he raped her, police said.

Practical joke on honeymooners costs \$4,000

NUREMBERG, Germany (AFP) — A practical joke played on a pair of newlyweds turned their apartment into a flaming wreck, put them in a state of shock and obliged them to begin married life by moving in with their in-laws. Sri Lanka has called in foreign investigators in the past to help local police probe political assassinations.

Mr. Athulathmudali, minister of national security, trade and education between 1977 and 1991, was leading a strong opposition challenge to Mr. Premadasa's ruling United National Party (UNP) at the crucial regional polls.

The UNP controls all seven provincial councils, which have wide regional powers, but is likely to lose at least three to a five-party opposition and the DUNP.

Television sex channel loses U.K. court bid

LONDON (R) — The owners of sex satellite channel Red Hot Television failed Friday in a high court bid to block a government decision to stop viewers from seeing its programmes in Britain. Two judges ruled that the European Court of Justice should be asked to decide whether the government acted lawfully in ordering a ban on the sale of signal decoders needed to receive the hardcore programmes beamed from Denmark. But the court refused to grant an injunction preventing the order from taking effect pending the European Court's decision, pointing to arguments that Red Hot Television's programme could harm children. Red Hot Television's Dutch-based parent company Continental Television BVIO and English marketing arm Continental Television PLC said they would appeal. Sales of decoders for the satellite signals soared when the government said last month it would ban them. It remains legal to use an existing unscrambled

Colombian girl so hungry she gnawed hands — officials

SANTAFE DE BOGOTA (AFP) — A severely malnourished girl was found with injuries on her hands indicating she may have become so hungry that she had gnawed them, Colombian authorities said. Mary Leones, 5, was found tied to a chair and locked in a ramshackle home while her mother washed clothes for local families in Soleá, near the Atlantic Coast, the daily El Heraldo reported Friday. "In these cruel conditions, the girl had no other choice but to eat her own hands that she wouldn't die of hunger," an official said. The girl, who lived alone with her mother, was unresponsive and appeared to be mentally retarded, child protection authorities said. The mother, 35-year-old Clarivel Leones, said she tied the girl "so she wouldn't bother me and would let me work."